

MULTIMEDIA



UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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# MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

## SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2015/2016

**PEN0045 – COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH**  
(All Foundations)

17 NOV 2015  
9.00 AM – 11.00 AM  
(2 HOURS)

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### INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **SEVEN** pages only.
  2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A, B and C**.
  3. Write **ALL** your answers in the answer booklet provided.
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**SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]**

**Instructions:** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

**Panda Policy**

- 1 For more than half a century, China has used its pandas to help foster 1  
relationships with other countries. These diplomatic loans are now entering a new  
phase, according to researchers. The cuddly creatures attract a lot of attention. They  
are popular conservation **icons** that boost a zoo's brand.
- 2 In fact, Edinburgh's loaned giant panda, Tian Tian, has even become a bit of 5  
a celebrity as the world watches with interest to see if she might give birth soon.  
Ever since the founder of China's communist party, Mao Zedong, used pandas as a  
way of entering into political discussions with other countries, the animal has been  
a national treasure. In September 2013, China showed off 14 giant panda cubs that  
had been artificially bred at a research centre in Sichuan province. 10
- 3 Edinburgh's panda deal was initially criticised by environmental groups,  
which said it was more about commerce than conservation. Now, a team from  
Oxford has quantified the new wave of panda diplomacy in a research  
article published in *Environmental Practice*. The team says panda diplomacy is  
only set to grow. 15
- 4 The researchers looked at all the panda loans that **occurred** in the last half-  
century and at the trade deals that took place after 2008. This was when the  
Sichuan earthquake devastated the main panda conservation centre, which meant  
many pandas needed re-homing. The team found that, after 2008, panda loans  
coincided with trade deals for valuable resources and technology. 20
- 5 This new stage of the panda policy is based on "guanxi" loans, a Chinese  
term used to describe personalised networks of influence, trust, reciprocity and  
loyalty. Lead author, Dr. Kathleen Buckingham at Oxford University, United  
Kingdom, says that the loan which shares the care of such a precious animal  
strengthens the bonds that China has with its inner circle of countries. Through 25  
panda loans which are based on "guanxi", China can also test the global  
technological skill. The United States has proved its technological **prowess** to  
China by breeding its panda cub. Can Edinburgh do the same?
- 6 Edinburgh Zoo received its pandas in 2011. The loan to Edinburgh was the 30  
first of its kind in 17 years. The day of the pandas' arrival on a specially chartered  
flight was even covered by exuberant live news. This positive atmosphere creates  
the perfect setting for subsequent trade negotiations, says Henry Nicholls, author of  
*The Way of the Panda: The Curious History of China's Political Animal*. He adds  
that China's influence on other countries will continue to strengthen as it brings  
panda diplomacy to a whole new level. 35
- 7 An agreed annual sum, paid to the Chinese government, is earmarked for  
giant panda conservation projects in the wild. However, shortly after the panda  
exchange occurred, claim the researchers, trade deals were signed for salmon,

**Continued...**

- renewable energy technology and Land Rover vehicles with contracts worth an estimated £2.6 billion. 40
- 8 A Scottish government spokesman states, "Strengthening our relationship brings substantial benefits to both countries, and this clearly pays dividends." He adds that Scottish exports to China have almost doubled in the past five years to £500 million. In addition, Scotland has also sealed its salmon agreement with China. This causes Norway, which has provided most of China's salmon for two decades to lose its deal. The authors state that *this* is likely also because Norway has awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to jailed Chinese dissident, Liu Xiaobo. Relations between the two countries have subsequently become strained. 45
- 9 The Oxford researchers also say that panda loans in Canada, France and Australia coincided with trade deals for uranium, which China needs to enable it to increase its nuclear capacity by 2050. Japan also received two pandas from China in 2011, and both countries stated that they hoped the loan would improve relations **tarnished** by a sovereignty dispute over islands. 50
- 10 The pandas are not simply exchanged in a straightforward agreement for the supply of natural resources to China; the reality is much more subtle, says Dr. Buckingham. The panda can be used to seal the deal and signify a bid for a long and prosperous relationship. If a panda is given to the country, it does not signify the closing of a deal. Instead, they have entrusted an endangered, precious animal to the country which signifies in some ways a new start to the relationship. 55
- 11 Dr. Buckingham further claims that China is interested in having soft power influence through a global visual seal of approval gained from loaning pandas. Since 2008, China has needed to re-house pandas. Now, whether or not the housing issue is still relevant, this wave of panda diplomacy has definitely made it **evident** that China has a lot to gain through panda loans. It is also an obvious fact that China has been greatly benefitted from its soft power influence. 60
- 12 Roderic Wye of the Asia programme at Chatham house, an independent think-tank focussing on international affairs, says China is now confident enough not to explicitly depend on panda loans to secure agreements on trade. "China is happy as long as the transaction will generate positive conservation benefits of the pandas. The loans earn China soft-power bonus points at no real cost to themselves," he told BBC News. 65
- 13 Dean Cheng from the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank in Washington DC, comments, "It is not surprising that China would take advantage of this resource. If this leads to panda conservation, it is a good thing. At the same time, the Chinese can **assume** the new role of a responsible environmentalist, which is probably not a bad thing to lay claim to," he adds. 70 75

*Adapted from Hogenboom, M.(September 2013). Chinese new phase of panda policy. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-24161385>*

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**Part 1: Contextual Clues (5 marks)**

**Instructions:** Based on the passage, provide a word or phrase that best expresses each of the following words.

**Example:**

Word	Meaning
icons (line 4)	symbols

- a. occurred (line 16)
- b. prowess (line 27)
- c. tarnished (line 53)
- d. evident (line 63)
- e. assume (line 75)

**Part 2: True-False Statements (5 marks)**

**Instructions:** For each statement, write (T) if the statement is true and (F) if the statement is false.

- a. At the initial stage, environmental groups reacted negatively to Edinburgh's panda deal.
- b. Panda loans started after the Sichuan earthquake in 2008.
- c. Edinburgh has yet to show that it is able to breed a panda cub.
- d. China exchanged pandas for uranium with Canada, France and Australia.
- e. Dean Cheng is certain that panda loans will lead to panda conservation.

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**Part 3: Comprehension (15 marks)**

**Instructions:** Answer all the following questions based on the passage.

- a. Why do pandas attract a lot of attention? (1 mark)
- b. i. What is a “guanxi” loan? (1 mark)  
ii. State two main purposes of the loan, as mentioned by Dr. Kathleen Buckingham. (2 marks)
- c. i. Based on paragraph six, give evidence that the pandas were warmly welcomed to Edinburgh. (1 mark)  
ii. What are the positive outcomes of the significant event? (2 marks)
- d. State the benefits enjoyed by the Scottish government from its relationship with China. (2 marks)
- e. What does the word *this* (in line 46) refer to? (1 mark)
- f. What did Japan and China hope to achieve from the panda loan? (1 mark)
- g. Why are pandas not simply exchanged in a straightforward agreement for natural resources supplied to China? (2 marks)
- h. Explain why China is now confident not to openly depend on panda loans to secure trade deals. (2 marks)

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**SECTION B: GRAMMAR [15 MARKS]****Part 1: Error Analysis (5 marks)**

**Instructions:** The following extract contains 5 errors on Subject-Verb Agreement. Identify the errors and correct them as shown in the example.

**Example:**

<u>Line</u>	<u>Error</u>	<u>Correction</u>
2	needs	need

**‘Text Neck’, ‘iPosture’ caused by use of electronic devices**

Handheld devices are a major part of everyday life, but technology lovers **needs** to be mindful of how they hold their go-to gadget. This is because it is impacting their health, especially among younger users. 1

Frequently referred to as “text neck” or “iPosture”, researchers and health care professionals uses these terms to describe the headaches, back pain, and achy shoulders they see in patients, primarily due to poor posture associated with the use of electronic devices. It is particularly evident among younger patients. 5

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, a large number of 8 to 18-year-olds spends an average of seven and a half hours a day using “entertainment media”. In addition, Dr. Sarah Pace, one of the best chiropractors, believe that it is a learned behaviour. “They slump over their electronic devices because that is ‘normal’ posture for them”. 10

Dr. Sarah Pace has seen patients as young as seven years old dealing with poor posture due to handheld devices, but in the past two years, the biggest increase in head posture issues have come from patients aged 12 to 22 years old. “They are coming in with worse head posture than my other adult patients”. 15

Although it is important to note that these postures can be corrected with chiropractic biophysics adjustments, Dr. Pace’s main concern is with their near future. She fears that when these patients are 25 to 35 years old, they will suffer chronic neck and upper back pain, headaches, and even arthritis. “Degenerative arthritis, which involves the chronic breakdown of cartilage in the joints, form because the alignment is not correct. With these kids’ spinal alignment being off at such a young age, arthritis will set in earlier leading to medications and surgeries.” 20

*Adapted from Erskine, H. (February 2014). ‘Text Neck’, ‘iPosture’ Caused by Use of Electronic Devices. Retrieved from: <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/lifestyle/her/2014/02/06/>*

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**Part 2: Verb Tenses (10 marks)**

**Instructions:** Write the appropriate usage of tenses for the words in the brackets.

**Example:** Persistent rains have cleared the air across vast stretches of south-east Asia that (0) have choked (choke) on hazardous smoke from Indonesian fires since a few weeks ago.

Persistent rains have cleared the air across vast stretches of south-east Asia that (0) have choked (choke) on hazardous smoke from Indonesian fires since a few weeks ago. Parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) the cleanest air in two months on Thursday, 22 October 2015, while affected areas of the Philippines and Thailand also gained a respite from pollution that has sickened hundreds of thousands.

“We can see clouds again!” Singapore defence minister Ng Eng Hen (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (marvel) on the same day in a Facebook posting that included a picture of now-unfamiliar blue skies taken from his office. On the other hand, Malaysia’s weather forecaster (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (declare) that the region’s rainy season which is crucial to put out the outbreak of smoke-belching Indonesian forest and agricultural fires had begun.

The fires and resulting region-wide pollution (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (occur) to varying degrees each year during the dry season as vast Indonesian plantation lands are illegally cleared by burning. At the peak, the forest fires (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (emit) more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere each day than the United States, the world’s second-largest emitter of the gases blamed for global warming.

Before the rains, experts had warned that the outbreak (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) on track to become the worst due to El Niño phenomenon, which alters weather patterns across the Pacific basin. Fears had grown that the rainy season could be delayed for months, prolonging the health and environmental disaster. Indonesian authorities say 19 people have died and more than half a million Indonesians (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (suffer) from respiratory illness currently. However, recent rainfall on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo where hundreds of fires (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (smoulder) since July 2015 has dramatically reduced the smoke. Now, the authorities are expecting more heavy precipitation to improve air quality in general.

Residents of Palangkaraya, an Indonesian city on Borneo where the intense fires have created eerie yellow skies and unbreathable air, expressed relief at seeing patches of blue up above for the first time. Schools that were closed for health reasons have begun reopening. It is expected that very soon, children (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to schools without masks. However, Jakarta is still under pressure because presently neighbouring countries (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (demand) Indonesia to release more information on the plantation firms in order to prevent the problem from recurring.

*Adapted from The Guardian (30 October 2015) Indonesian fires: rain clears haze over south-east Asia for first time in months. Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/30/indonesian-fires-rain-clears-haze-south-east-asia-first-time-months>*

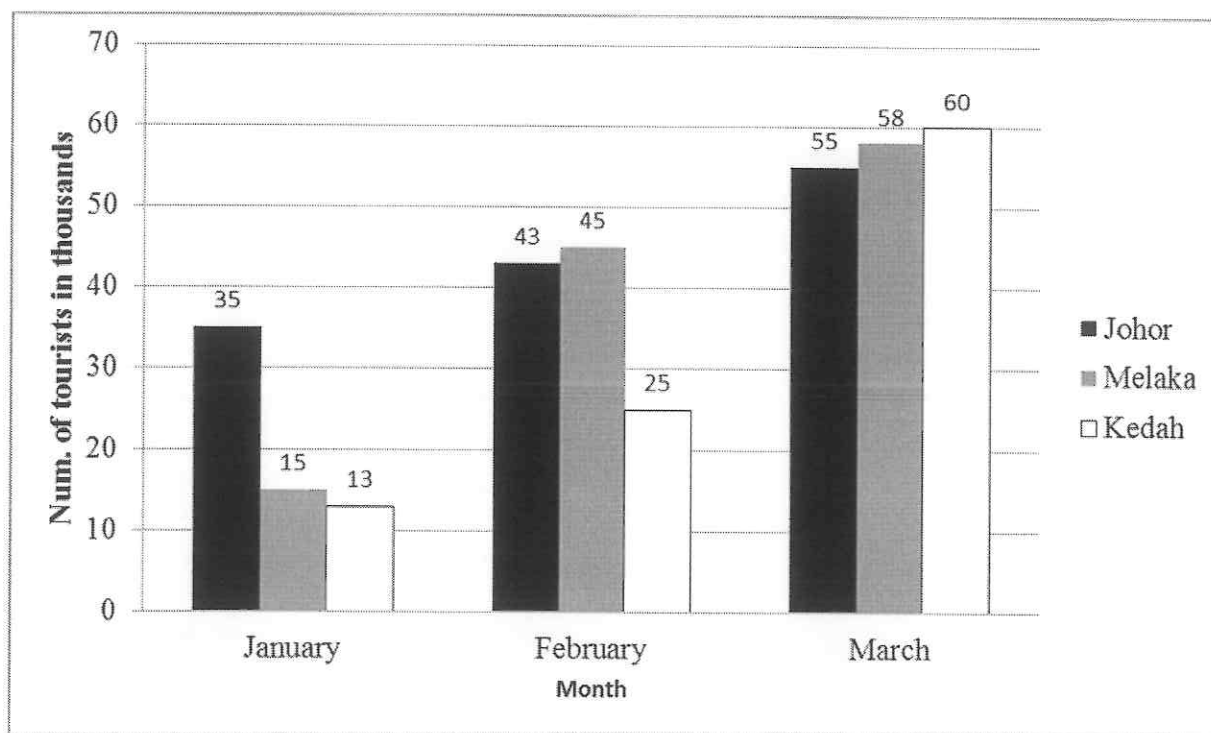
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**SECTION C: WRITING [20 MARKS]**

**Instructions:** Using the data given below, analyse the number of tourists in the three states. In your analysis, you are to link the information given in the two visuals. You should write **150 to 200 words**.

**Figure 1: Number of Tourists in Three States (January - March 2015)**



**Table 1: Tourism Activities (January – March 2015)**

State/ Month	January	February	March
Johor	World Music Festival	Malaysia Open Chess Tournament	Johor International Jazz Concert
Melaka		Heritage Expo	Melaka Sea Carnival
Kedah			Le Tour de Langkawi

**End of Paper**